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Building Nunavut Together
Nunavuliuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

Public Service Announcement

Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Start Date: March 9, 2026
End Date: March 31, 2026
Nunavut-wide **60 sec**

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness about colorectal cancer, its risk factors, and the importance of early detection. Colorectal cancer is one of the leading cancers in Nunavut. The good news is that it is preventable and treatable when detected early. Regular screening is the most effective way to reduce deaths from colorectal cancer. By detecting early signs of the disease before symptoms appear, we get the opportunity to treat it and make healthy lifestyle changes.

The fecal immunochemical test (FIT) is a simple, non-invasive test that checks for hidden blood in the stool, a possible early sign of colorectal cancer. The Department of Health is expanding access to organized colorectal cancer screening across Nunavut. The program began in May 2025 and is now available in 18 of Nunavut's 25 communities, as part of a gradual, territory-wide implementation.

FIT testing is recommended every two years for individuals aged 50 to 74 who are at average risk and have no signs or symptoms of colorectal disease. Participation is simple. Eligible individuals can pick up a free FIT kit from their local health centre, collect a small stool sample at home, and return it to the health center for testing, or directly to the laboratory for residents of Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit. The test is quick, non-invasive, and can detect early signs of colorectal cancer before symptoms appear, significantly increasing the chances of early treatment and better health outcomes.

For more information, visit your health centre and speak with your health-care provider. You can also contact the cancer screening program by calling 867-975-5943 or emailing CancerScreening@gov.nu.ca. Additional information is available on the Government of Nunavut website.

Let's work together to raise awareness and prevent colorectal cancer in our communities. **Early detection saves lives**.

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